

April 10, 1959

Dr. E. O. Bennett  
Department of Biology  
Cullen Boulevard  
Houston 4, Texas

Dear Dr. Bennett:

Thank you for your letter of the 6th and the accompanying reprints.

I suspect there will be valuable information in the references you cited but I'm afraid my inquiry lent itself to misconstruction. I was mainly trying to get information on the characteristic levels and quality of microbial contamination in various products as they leave the factory. I am not immediately concerned with the deterioration of these products, but with the kind of microbial load they carry. This would have some bearing, for example, on the magnitude of the problems that might be involved in decontamination of interplanetary missiles. If you can give me any more background information along with these lines, I would be obligated to you.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics